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ACTION: ECON
INFO: LEGAT ICE P/M AMB DCM POL

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APPROVED: DCM:RAALBRIGHT
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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8698
INFO RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA 1089
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
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MANAMA FOR OFAC ATTACHE

E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: UPCOMING UAE INTERNATIONAL HAWALA CONFERENCE

¶1. The UAE Central Bank, in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and the Middle East North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF), will host the Third International Conference on Hawala in Abu Dhabi April 2-3, and the UAE has issued an invitation to Post to attend.

¶2. The program will include panel discussions with topics including the experience of FATF style regional bodies, efforts to regulate hawaladars, law enforcement efforts, and private sector perspectives.

¶3. The Central Bank expects over 400 participants, with representatives from ministries of finance, Central Banks, FATF, law enforcement agencies, and international financial institutions.

¶4. Post has already received a country clearance request for an official from Treasury's Office of Technical Assistance. We note that the UAE schedule shows a representative from FinCen as a member of the panel on regulating hawala remittances.

SISON